



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg, Queen's Park,
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General of Ontario
Ministry of the Solicitor General
14th Flr, 56 Wellesley St W,
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7

Friday February 4th, 2022

Dear Premier and Minister Jones,

The ongoing protests in Ottawa are now going into their eighth day. It now resembles an occupation, rather than a peaceful protest. People no longer feel safe in the city they call home. Healthcare workers are being harassed and forced to endure delays on their commute to and from work. Organizations serving women escaping violence, youth and the homeless are reporting events of harassment and intimidation that are having an impact on their ability to assist their clients.

Furthermore, small businesses, restaurants, gyms and an entire shopping mall have been forced to close. The Rideau Centre in Ottawa estimates their losses to be close to \$20 million. Too many residents are facing undue hardship. None of this is in any way acceptable. The burden to the municipal taxpayers for police costs is approximately \$800,000/day. The tally has now reached over \$5 million.

As you are aware, Schedule 1 of the *Comprehensive Police Services Act, 2019* would allow the police services board and the Minister to charge costs to persons causing a temporary increase in the cost of effective policing. Premier and Minister, right now, Ottawa's residents are bearing the daily costs of this continued occupation. This is a tool that the police services board and the Solicitor General could use to collect the millions of dollars in excess costs from the occupation's organizers.

Unfortunately, almost 3 years after the bill was passed, the government has failed to put this legislation into force.

We strongly urge you to enact this legislation now, so that it can be used to send a strong message to the organizers of this occupation.



It's time to send a clear message to the organizers of what has now become an occupation of downtown Ottawa. Although this action will not fully address all that needs to be done to make residents feel safe again and recover all of their financial losses, it will make clear to those responsible that there is a cost and a consequence for the continued disruption and occupation of Ottawa's downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Fraser".

John Fraser
MPP, Ottawa South

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Blais".

Stephen Blais
MPP, Orléans

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucille Collard".

Lucille Collard
MPP, Ottawa-Vanier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amanda Simard".

Amanda Simard
MPP, Glengarry—Prescott—Russell

CC:

- His Worship Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa
- Hon. Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
- Hon. Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- Joel Harden, MPP Ottawa Centre
- Goldie Ghamari, MPP Carleton
- Jeremy Roberts, MPP Ottawa West—Nepean